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Executive Director
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Deputy Director

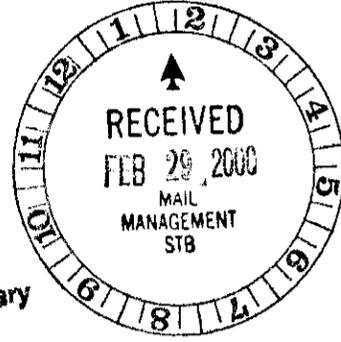
State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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February 28, 2000



ENTERED
Office of the Secretary

FEB 29 2000

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Public Record

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Office of the Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
ATTN: STB Ex Parte No. 582
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Secretary Williams:

SUBJECT: Surface Transportation Board Ex Parte No. 582
Public Views on Major Rail Consolidations

The State of Utah, as a party of interest, desires to place on record that while it does not oppose railroad mergers per se, it is concerned about the impact, both direct and indirect, that future rail mergers may have on railway service within the state. Given the serious problems resulting from the 1996 merger of the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific, as well as the recent breakup of Conrail between Norfolk Southern and CSX, we feel that it is vitally important that the Surface Transportation Board take a close look at the impacts inherent in any future merger, particularly as they relate to the quality of service provided by the railroads to their shippers.

The State of Utah is very supportive of the railroad industry and its efforts to remain productive and competitive; however, we have a responsibility to the rail shippers in our state to ensure that the quality of service they receive is maintained and not adversely affected, directly or indirectly, from future railroad consolidations.

We wish to go on record as a party of interest supporting the Surface Transportation Board's review of major rail consolidations. We appreciate your efforts in behalf of future rail service levels in the United States.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Warne, P.E.
Executive Director

TRW/DBK/jbl

cc: Dan Kuhn, UDOT Rail Planner